



09-24504

3738

ITW

PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/988,954
Filing Date	November 21, 2001
First Named Inventor	P. Bonutti
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	P. Prebilic
Attorney Docket Number	780-A02-006-11

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached (via credit card)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers
<input type="checkbox"/> Petition
<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation
Change of Correspondence Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer
<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund
<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Copies of Claims of Co-Pending Applications, Return Postcard |
|--|---|---|

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENTFirm
or
Individual name

Paul D. Bianco, Reg. 43,500

Signature

Christopher J. Menke By: Christopher J. Menke Reg # 53,316

Date

September 23, 2004

Express Mail Label No.: EV 269992990 US

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name

Dinah Fuentes

Signature

Dinah Fuentes

Date

September 23, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



Express Mail Label No.: EV 269992990 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 9219

Application No.: 09/988,954

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-006-11

Filed: November 21, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3738

For: TISSUE STABILIZATION METHOD

Examiner: P. Prebilio

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Introductory Comments

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file for the above-identified application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Response begins on a separate sheet. Applicant submits these amendments and remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that the attached paper(s) or fee(s) is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" to Mail Stop Amendment

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

On September 23, 2004

Dinah Fuentes

Name of Person Sending Express Mail

Signature of Person Sending Express Mail